

REPORT

OF THE

COMMISSIONERS OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

FOR THE

YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 1901.

VOL. III.

[REPORT OF THE HEALTH OFFICER.]

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TABLE OF CONTENTS.

	Page.
Vital statistics.....	5
Population.....	5
Mortality.....	6
By classes.....	10
Births.....	13
Stillbirths.....	13
Marriages.....	13
Records and transcripts.....	13
Official registers.....	13
Private hospitals.....	14
Cemeteries.....	14
Anatomical material.....	14
Medical relief of the poor.....	15
Contagious diseases.....	16
Scarlet fever.....	16
Diphtheria.....	17
Disinfection service.....	17
Wards for minor contagious diseases.....	17
Major contagious diseases.....	18
Smallpox.....	18
Typhoid fever.....	18
Tuberculosis.....	18
Malarial fever.....	18
Contagious diseases among animals.....	19
Permits to obstruct travel.....	19
Chemical laboratory.....	19
Inspection service.....	21
Nuisances.....	21
Food.....	21
Marine products.....	23
Live stock.....	24
Dairy farms and dairy products.....	24
Smoke.....	25
Removal of weeds.....	25
Pound service.....	25
Prosecutions.....	25
Legislation.....	26
Miscellaneous.....	26
Filtration of Potomac water.....	26
Medical inspection of schools.....	27
Municipal bath houses.....	27
Anacostia flats.....	27
Inspection of barber shops.....	27
APPENDIX A.	
Report of medical sanitary inspector.....	31
Diphtheria.....	31
Scarlet fever.....	31
Disinfection.....	32
Germs, diphtheria.....	33
Tables, cases, ages, and deaths—	
Diphtheria.....	34
Scarlet fever.....	35

APPENDIX B.

	Page.
Report of chemist	37
Examination of—	
Milk	37
Cream	38
Water	38
Food	38

APPENDIX C.

Report of the inspector of live stock and dairy farms	43
Table of inspections	43
Enforcement of milk regulations	44
Tuberculous and healthy cattle	45
Disposal of condemned cows	45
Recommendations	46
City dairies	47
Contagious diseases in the District of Columbia	48
Hog cholera	48
Rabies	48
Abattoir and meat inspection	48

APPENDIX D.

Report of physician in charge of smallpox hospital	51
Table, classified, of cases	51
Table, vaccination history	51
History of outbreak	52
Quarantine	53
Police powers for hospital employees	54
Red-light treatment	54
Approach to the hospital	55

APPENDIX E.

Status of legislation relating to public health in the District of Columbia	57, 58
-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------	--------

APPENDIX F.

Statement of diseases treated by physicians to the poor	59
---------------------------------------------------------------	----

APPENDIX G.

List of physicians entitled to practice in the District of Columbia, December 1, 1901	61
---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	----

APPENDIX H.

Bertillon classification of causes of death	69
---------------------------------------------------	----

APPENDIX I.

Vital statistics	81
Deaths by squares:	
In Washington	81
In Georgetown	98
In county	100
In alleys	101
Tables	106-263
General index	264

REPORT OF THE HEALTH OFFICER.

WASHINGTON, *June 30, 1901.*

GENTLEMEN: I have the honor to submit the following statement relative to the work of the health department and the conditions of public health in the District of Columbia during the year ended June 30, 1901, being the twenty-second annual report of the health department.

VITAL STATISTICS.

The Federal census of 1900 has shown a disappointingly small population for this District. The total number of inhabitants enumerated was but 278,718—of whites, 192,016; of colored, 86,702. Recent police censuses had justified a belief that the population of the District would be not less than 285,000.

The results of such censuses, shown in the following table, had been consistent with one another and with the Federal census of 1890.¹

Population of the District of Columbia, police censuses.

Date.	White.	Colored.	Total.
June, 1887.....	145,635	75,522	218,157
June, 1892.....	173,610	84,841	258,451
December, 1894.....	183,516	86,998	270,514
April, 1897.....	189,457	88,325	277,782

The increase from year to year while not great had been reasonably large, and for a community of the character of that of Washington satisfactory. When, therefore, the Federal census of June, 1900, shows on comparison with the police census of April, 1897, an increase in the white population of but 2,559 and a decrease in the colored population of 1,623, making a total increase of but 936 in somewhat more than three years, it is apparent that there have been some very unusual and remarkable factors at work to modify usual conditions, or that one or the other of these enumerations of the population is incorrect. A careful consideration having failed to show the presence of any factors liable to curtail the usual increase in the population, the latter hypothesis is at least reasonably well sustained. As to which of the enumerations is in error there may be honest differences of opinion, but as the police census was made by men familiar with every nook and cranny of the District, and whose uniforms commanded respect, and the summing up of the returns done by men whose gradually increasing experience up to the last enumeration insured accuracy, it

¹ The Federal census of 1890 showed a white population of 154,820 and a colored population of 75,572; total, 230,392.

would appear that the chances of being correct were much in favor of the police census, the Federal census of June, 1900, showing probably less than the actual number of the inhabitants. While accepting this as a fact the health department has not felt justified in rejecting the returns of the Federal census of June, 1900, in the computation of its vital statistics of the District, because of the absence of an actual enumeration to demonstrate its inaccuracy. The vital statistics for the year ended June 30, 1901, have therefore been based on an estimated population for December, 1900, in the computation of which both the police census of April, 1897, and the Federal census of June, 1900, were accepted as correct. Such estimates show a white population of 192,413, a colored population of 86,467, and a total population of 278,880. An analysis of the population of the District by sex and color, and to a certain extent by age, based on the Federal census of 1900, appears in the following table:

Analysis of estimated population, by color, sex, and age, based on results of Federal census of June, 1900.

Color.	Population.	Percent of entire population.
White:		
Male	93,711	33.60
Female	98,417	35.29
Total	192,128	68.89
Colored:		
Male	38,370	13.76
Female	48,382	17.35
Total	86,752	31.11

Color.	Population.	Percent of corresponding population.
Under 5 years old:		
White	15,905	8.26
Colored	7,258	8.39
Total	23,163	8.31
Under 1 year old:		
White	3,250	1.68
Colored	1,510	1.74
Total	4,760	1.70

MORTALITY.

The following statement shows the number of deaths and the death rates, by color, for the year just ended:¹

Death and death rates, by color, for year ended June 30, 1901.

	Deaths.	Death rates.
White	3,430	17.82
Colored	2,657	30.73
Total	6,087	21.83

¹The health department included under the term "colored" only persons of African descent. The United States Census Bureau includes under the same term not only persons of African descent, but also Indians, Chinese, and Japanese.

These figures show a slight increase in all death rates since last year: for the entire population, 0.46 per thousand; for the whites, 0.47; for the colored, 0.51. An effort will be made in the following pages to determine, as far as may be practicable, the causes for this increase; but as it is the result of many factors, no positive statement can be promised. The population, number of deaths, and death rates during each of the past ten years are shown in the following table. Corresponding data for the sixteen years immediately preceding, corrected to date, appear in the appendix (see page 262):

Population, deaths, and death rates for ten years ended June 30, 1901, based upon results of police censuses and of the Federal census of June, 1900.

Years.	Population.			Deaths.			Death rate.		
	White.	Colored.	Total.	White.	Colored.	Total.	White.	Colored.	Total.
1892.....	169,840	83,170	253,010	3,442	2,656	6,098	20.27	31.93	24.10
1893.....	175,550	85,250	260,800	3,677	2,775	6,452	20.95	32.55	24.74
1894.....	179,485	86,115	265,600	3,329	2,710	6,039	18.55	31.47	22.73
1895.....	183,516	86,998	270,514	3,114	2,451	5,565	16.97	28.18	20.57
1896.....	186,866	87,294	274,160	3,302	2,602	5,904	17.67	29.80	21.53
1897.....	188,787	88,176	276,963	3,216	2,521	5,737	17.03	28.59	20.71
1898.....	190,048	87,953	278,001	2,973	2,442	5,415	15.64	27.78	19.48
1899.....	190,834	87,455	278,289	3,372	2,654	6,026	17.67	30.84	21.65
1900.....	191,619	86,958	278,577	3,325	2,628	5,953	17.35	30.22	21.37
1901.....	192,413	86,467	278,880	3,430	2,657	6,087	17.82	30.73	21.83
Total	1,848,958	865,836	2,714,794	33,180	26,096	59,276	17.94	30.11	21.83

Classifying the decedents by sex, by color, and by both, we obtain the results shown below:

Mortality and death rates, by sex, for year ended June 30, 1901.

Estimated population:

Males—

White 93,711
Colored 38,370

Total 132,081

Females—

White 98,417
Colored 48,382

Total 146,799

Deaths:

Males—

White 1,910
Colored 1,297

Total 3,207

Deaths—Continued.

Females—

White 1,520
Colored 1,360

Total 2,880

Death rates per 1,000:

Males—

White 20.38
Colored 33.80

Total 24.28

Females—

White 15.44
Colored 28.11

Total 19.62

The usual excess of the death rate for males over that for females appears in both the white and the colored elements of the population, and the excess of the colored death rate over that for whites appears in both sexes.

The following statement shows the number of children who died during the past year before completing their first and before complet-

ing their fifth years of life, and the corresponding death rates, calculated on the basis of juvenile population:

Mortality and death rates for children under 1 and under 5 years of age, for the year ended June 30, 1901.

Estimated population:		Deaths—Continued.	
Under 1 year of age—		Under 5 years of age—	
White	3,250	White	773
Colored	1,510	Colored	971
Total	4,760	Total	1,744
Under 5 years of age—		Death rates per 1,000:	
White	15,905	Under 1 year of age—	
Colored	7,258	White	182.77
Total	23,163	Colored	456.95
		Total	269.77
Deaths:		Under 5 years of age—	
Under 1 year of age—		White	48.60
White	594	Colored	133.78
Colored	690	Total	75.29
Total	1,284		

The excess of the colored death rate over that for whites is even more marked in the earlier years of life than in the entire population. Unless the returns of the Federal census of 1900 are incorrect, which, as suggested before, seems probable, approximately 457 of every thousand colored children recently born in this district died before completing their first year of life. The corresponding figure for the whites—183 out of every thousand—while startling enough, is not nearly so appalling as is that for the colored.

Passing to the other extreme of life, we find 513 decedents between the seventy-first and the eightieth years of life, inclusive, of whom 414 were white and 99 colored. Between the eighty-first and the ninetieth years, inclusive, 254 died—white, 183; colored, 71. Between the ninety-first and the one hundredth years 57 died—white, 24; colored, 33. The predominance of colored decedents in the last decade was probably due to the greater inaccuracy of their age records and to the natural tendency, in the absence of such records, to exaggerate rather than to any actual difference in the longevity of the two races.

Without an accurate knowledge of the composition of the population a statement as to the average age of decedents at death loses much, if not all, of its value. The following statement is given, however, for whatever it may be worth to individual readers:

Average age of decedents during the year ended June 30, 1901.

	Years.	Months.	Days.
White:			
Male	39	5	4
Female	41	0	18
Total	40	1	25
Colored:			
Male	25	6	10
Female	29	10	20
Total	27	9	4

A brief analysis of the mortality with reference to time of occurrence appears in the following statement:

Average daily mortality, by months, during year ended June 30, 1901.

1900.	Average number of deaths per diem.	1901.	Average number of deaths per diem.
July.....	19.4	January.....	19.3
August.....	17.4	February.....	19.4
September.....	17.2	March.....	18.0
October.....	14.6	April.....	15.2
November.....	14.1	May.....	13.5
December.....	16.0	June.....	16.0

The increase in the mortality during the month of July represents merely the usual summer increase in diarrhœal diseases. In May, 1900, the total number of deaths recorded from diarrhœal diseases was 4. During the following month it rose to 68, and in July, the first month of the fiscal year covered by this report, it was 164. The decline in the prevalence of these diseases is more gradual. The returns for August showed 60 deaths; September, 25; October, 27; and November, 10. A corresponding increase has appeared toward the end of the year. In May, 1901, the record showed but 1 death from diarrhœal diseases; in June there were 61. The increased mortality during January, February, and March was due to the increased prevalence of diseases of the lungs and of grippe. In December, 1900, there were 49 fatal cases of pneumonia; in January, 97; in February, 68, and in March, 88. The deaths from grippe during December numbered but 6; in January, 71; in February, 56, and in March, 31.

Information as to the number of deaths which occurred each day, a general summary as to the daily character of such mortality, and a statement as to the prevailing meteorological conditions appear in the index. A statement of the distribution of mortality by squares and suburban settlements is appended. Unfortunately, it is impossible to include a statement showing the population similarly distributed.

Analyzing the mortality with reference to the character of the diseases responsible for it, we find:

Deaths by classes, arranged by sex and color, with percentages and annual death rates, for the year ended June 30, 1901.

Cause of death.	Deaths.							Percentages to total deaths, by sex and color.				Total annual death rate.
	White.		Colored.		White.	Colored.	Total.	White.		Colored.		
	M.	F.	M.	F.				M.	F.	M.	F.	
I. General diseases.....	574	501	410	473	1,075	883	1,958	30.0	33.0	31.6	34.8	1.1
II. Diseases of the nervous system.....	302	187	119	132	489	251	740	15.8	12.3	9.2	9.8	1.05
III. Diseases of the circulatory system.....	181	140	88	120	321	208	529	9.6	9.3	6.8	8.9	1.00
IV. Diseases of the respiratory system.....	175	167	211	196	342	407	749	9.2	11.2	16.3	14.4	2.09
V. Diseases of the digestive system.....	233	166	167	144	399	311	710	12.2	10.9	12.8	10.6	2.54
VI. Diseases of the genito-urinary system.....	131	111	79	97	242	176	418	6.8	7.5	6.1	7.1	1.50
VII. Puerperal condition.....		29		26	29	26	55		1.5		1.9	0.19
VIII. Diseases of the skin and cellular tissue.....	11	5	6	8	16	14	30	.06	0.3	0.5	0.6	.11
IX. Diseases of the organs of locomotion.....	2	2	8	7	4	15	19	.01	0.1	0.6	0.5	0.07
X. Malformation.....	2	2	3	1	4	4	8	.01	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.03
XI. Infancy.....	126	91	120	86	217	206	423	6.6	6.0	9.3	6.3	1.52
XII. Old age.....	45	72	24	36	117	60	177	2.3	4.7	2.0	2.6	0.63
XIII. Violence.....	122	45	57	29	167	86	253	6.4	3.0	4.4	2.0	0.91
XIV. Ill defined.....	6	2	5	5	8	10	18	0.3	0.1	0.2	0.4	0.07
Total.....	1,910	1,520	1,297	1,360	3,430	2,657	6,087	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.1	21.82

The total number of deaths resulting from the so-called general diseases does not vary materially from the number recorded in the same class during the preceding year. There have been, however, considerable variations in some of the diseases of which this class is made up. The following show a diminution in the number of reported deaths:

Diphtheria (and croup)	205 to 86
Hereditary syphilis.....	24 to 14
Measles.....	41 to 17
Malignant tumors.....	185 to 154
Scarlet fever.....	23 to 7
Typhoid fever.....	216 to 193

An increased number of deaths was, however, recorded from the following diseases:

Acute articular rheumatism.....	30 to 41
Alcoholism.....	21 to 34
Diabetes.....	14 to 25
Erysipelas.....	6 to 19
Grippe.....	118 to 181
Malarial diseases.....	45 to 48
Tuberculosis of the lungs.....	742 to 871
Whooping cough.....	48 to 74

The decrease in the number of deaths from diphtheria and scarlet fever will be considered in connection with the general subject of the enforcement of the act to prevent the spread of those diseases. The causes of malignant tumors are so obscure that the apparent decrease in their prevalence can not be explained upon any rational basis. The decreased prevalence of measles probably represents merely a falling

off in the prevalence of that disease due to the immunization of the community by the preceding outbreak. The increased mortality from tuberculosis of the lungs was probably due to the unusual prevalence of grippe, a disease which has an apparent predilection for the respiratory system. There is no satisfactory explanation for the decreased prevalence of typhoid fever, however satisfactory the decrease itself may be.

The apparently increased prevalence of acute articular rheumatism, alcoholism, and diabetes can not be satisfactorily accounted for. The same may be said to a certain extent of the increase in the prevalence of erysipelas, grippe, and whooping cough. With reference to whooping cough, however, the condition is probably the reverse of that spoken of when referring to measles; the diminished prevalence for one season has permitted an increase in the susceptible population and resulted in a subsequent increase in the prevalence of the disease.

The total number of deaths charged to diseases of the nervous system was 740. The number of deaths reported from the following diseases shows an increase since last year:

Cerebral congestion	29 to 37
Cerebral softening	14 to 27
Diseases of the spinal cord	2 to 24
Hemiplegia	13 to 20
Neurasthenia	0 to 6
Organic brain disease	33 to 41
Simple meningitis	66 to 87
Trismus nascentium	11 to 23

A decreased number of deaths was registered from the following:

Cerebral hemorrhage	285 to 269
Convulsions of children	130 to 93
Epidemic cerebro-spinal meningitis	24 to 20
Epilepsy	34 to 22
General paralysis	15 to 12

With reference to some of the diseases cited above the question arises as to whether the increase or decrease in the number of deaths is real or only apparent. It seems probable, in some cases at least, that a seeming increase in one disease is to be accounted for by a changed nomenclature, resulting in a decrease in the deaths reported as due to some other malady, and vice versa.

Diseases affecting the circulatory organs caused 529 deaths. The number of deaths due to endocarditis increased from 36 to 43. Those from aneurism of the aorta increased from 4 to 11. Nineteen deaths were charged to arterio-sclerosis, and 10 to myocarditis, from neither of which maladies were any reported last year.

Diseases of the respiratory system, not including pulmonary tuberculosis, were responsible for 749 deaths. Considerably more than half of the total mortality from diseases of this sort was due to pneumonia. The total number of deaths from this disease, however, remains about the same as it was last year. Seven deaths were reported as due to laryngismus stridulus, of which there were no cases reported during 1899-1900. The number of deaths from broncho-pneumonia increased from 42 to 61; from pulmonary congestion, from 49 to 55; from asthma, from 3 to 11, and from pulmonary hemorrhage, from 4 to 14. It is probable, of course, that a certain number, if not all of the last-named cases were due to pulmonary tuberculosis.

There were 710 fatal cases of diseases involving the digestive appa-

ratus, not including cancer. The largest mortality in this class of diseases was due to cholera infantum, the total number of deaths caused by this disorder being 147. This, however, is 42 less than was caused by the same disease in 1899-1900. There was a decrease in the number of deaths among children under 2 years old due to gastro-enteritis from 79 to 58, but deaths from enteritis, entero-colitis, and enteric catarrh among this class increased from 110 to 121. There was practically no variation in the number of deaths from diarrhoea and enteritis in persons over 2 years old, the total number of deaths from such diseases last year being 70, while during the year just ended it was 68. Appendicitis caused 27 deaths, a slight increase since last year, when 23 deaths were reported as due to appendicitis and 1 to typhlitis. This has been accompanied, however, by a decrease in the deaths from nonpuerperal peritonitis from 26 to 23.

From diseases of the genito-urinary system there were 418 deaths. The number of deaths from acute nephritis increased from 47 to 52; from chronic nephritis from 168 to 200; and from albuminuria and uremia from 17 to 30. There were 20 deaths from pyosalpinx, an increase of 11.

The total number of deaths incident to the puerperal state was 55. Eight deaths were reported as due to abortion, 4 to placenta previa, 2 to tubal pregnancy, and 1 to puerperal mania. No deaths were reported from any of these causes during the preceding year. The number of deaths from puerperal septicemia increased from 13 to 16, and from puerperal eclampsia from 3 to 12, while those from puerperal peritonitis decreased from 9 to 3.

Thirty deaths were reported as due to diseases of the skin and cellular tissue. Of these, 22 were due to gangrene in various forms, an increase of 15 since last year. Diseases of the organs of locomotion were responsible for 18 deaths. In this class of diseases there was an increase in the number of fatal cases of rickets from 1 to 9, and osteomyelitis from 1 to 5. This increase was in part offset by a decrease in the cases of psoas abscess from 5 to 1. Malformations resulted in 8 deaths. Diseases of and conditions incident to early infancy caused 423 deaths, of which premature birth alone was responsible for 148. Deaths from inanition increased from 30 to 41, from marasmus from 98 to 106, from malnutrition from 24 to 46, and from congenital debility from 17 to 30. Old age was responsible for 177 deaths, an increase of 16 since last year.

Two hundred and sixty-two deaths were produced by external causes. Of these, 38 were due to suicide, 213 to accidents, 9 to criminal homicides, and 2 to judicial execution. Of the suicides, 17 were by poisoning, 3 by the inhalation of illuminating gas, 2 by hanging, 3 by drowning, 9 by the use of firearms, and 4 by cutting instruments of various sorts. There was an increase of 8 in the number of suicides by poisoning and an increase of 3 in the number of suicides by the use of firearms. As usual self-destruction was much more common among the whites than among the colored, and more common among males than among females. The total number of white suicides was 31 and of colored 7. The total number of males was 25 and of females 13. There was 1 fatal case of accidental poisoning by carbolic acid, 1 by paraldehyde, and one by sulphuric acid. Eight accidental deaths were charged to the inhalation of illuminating gas, an increase of 5 since last year. Seven cases of injury are reported to have terminated fatally by tetanus, an increase of 6. Burns and scalds were responsible

for 29 deaths, which is 5 less than the number reported last year. Injuries by electric currents were responsible for 5 deaths, an increase of 2. The usual large mortality from accidental drowning appears in the records covered by this report, the total number of deaths from this cause being 31, an increase of 11. Fatal injuries from steam railways or street railways were less numerous than last year, the total number of injuries from the former being 17, a decrease of 2, and from the latter, 3, a decrease of 5.

The number of apparently criminal homicides during the year was 9; 5 by gunshot, 3 by cutting or stabbing, and 1 by poisoning.

Sunstroke was responsible for 51 deaths, an increase of 44.

The mortality list is completed by certain ill-defined diseases, the deaths from which number, altogether, 9.

RETURNS OF BIRTHS.

The number of reported births was 4,531, a decrease of 110 since last year. These returns represent the births of 2,780 white children and 1,751 colored. At 55 births twins were delivered and on one occasion triplets. Of the total number of births reported, 525, or 11.6 per cent, were illegitimate; in 77 cases white and 448 colored. Of the entire number 2,932 reports came from physicians and 1,599 from midwives.

RETURNS OF STILLBIRTHS.

Five hundred and twenty-four stillbirths were reported; 195 white and 329 colored. In 198 cases these births were reported as illegitimate; 25 white and 173 colored. Three hundred and seventy-five were reported by physicians and 149 by the coroner. The latter represent, in many cases, dead bodies picked up in public places, and in others, stillbirths occurring in confinement under care of midwives. The cause of these stillbirths is usually reported as unknown—348 cases. In 22 cases the cause was said to be difficult labor, in 14 over exertion of mother, in 13 pressure on the cord, and in 12 uremic convulsions in mother.

RETURNS OF MARRIAGES.

The total number of marriages recorded during the year was 1,877; white 1,274, and colored 603. The number of marriage licenses issued by the clerk of the court during the corresponding period was 3,337, showing that approximately 43.8 per cent of the total number of marriages have not been reported.

RECORDS AND TRANSCRIPTS.

During the year 570 transcripts from the records of births, deaths, and marriages have been issued, and 3 certificates have been given showing that no record existed. Attention is again invited to the necessity for fireproof vaults for the safe-keeping of these records. If destroyed, they can not be replaced.

OFFICIAL REGISTERS.

Under the act regulating the practice of medicine, 66 physicians registered during the year. Of these 53 had been licensed by the board of medical supervisors, after examination, and 13 on the basis of registration at the health office prior to the enactment of the law now in force. So far as it is known to this department 15 registered physi-

cians died during the year, and the total number of living physicians whose names now appear on the register is 1,140.

Under the act regulating the practice of medicine, 8 midwives have been registered; 3 on licenses issued after examination and 5 on licenses issued by virtue of previous registrations. The total number now registered is approximately 130.

Thirty-five dentists were registered on the basis of certificates issued by the board of dental examiners. The official register of dentists contains 426 names.

The register of undertakers was increased during the past year by 4 names, making a total of 125.

PRIVATE HOSPITALS.

The records of the health department show no change either in the number, character, or location of the private hospitals in this District.

CEMETERIES.

The list of cemeteries has been increased by two, one located at the Franciscan Monastery, near Brookland, and established under a permit issued by the Commissioners on March 22, 1901; the other in the lands of the Protestant Episcopal Cathedral Foundation on Wisconsin avenue, established by an act of Congress of March 1, 1901.

ANATOMICAL MATERIAL.

Anatomical material was offered for use and used for the promotion of anatomical science during the past year in sixty instances. Its origin and the manner in which it has been distributed are shown in the following table. The law governing this matter should be amended so as to provide better for instruction in anatomy and surgery in the medical colleges of this District, and to enable the various Government medical examining boards, Federal and municipal, to have such anatomical material as is necessary for their work. The public can not have the services of properly qualified medical men unless it supplies through legitimate sources such material as is necessary for their education and for the determination of the qualifications of would-be practitioners of medicine.

Distribution of cadavers under anatomical act during year ended June 30, 1901.

From—	1900.														
	July.			September.			October.			November.			December.		
	Good.	Posted.	Infants.	Good.	Posted.	Infants.	Good.	Posted.	Infants.	Good.	Posted.	Infants.	Good.	Posted.	Infants.
Columbian University Hospital															
Emergency Hospital															
Freedmen's Hospital										3	1		1	1	
Homeopathic Hospital															
Morgue													2		
Providence Hospital	1												1		
Sibley Hospital															
St. Elizabeth															
Washington Asylum Hospital				1			4			1	2		1	1	
Total	1			1			4			4	3		5	2	

Distribution of cadavers under anatomical act during year ended June 30, 1901—Cont'd.

	1901.															Total.		
	January.			February.			March.			April.			May.			June.		
	Good.	Posted.	Infants.	Good.	Posted.	Infants.	Good.	Posted.	Infants.	Good.	Posted.	Infants.	Good.	Posted.	Infants.	Good.	Posted.	Infants.
From—																		
Columbian University																		
Hospital.....													1				1	
Emergency Hospital.....	2			1			1									4		
Freedmen's Hospital.....				4			5	1					1			14	3	
Homeopathic Hospital.....																		
Morgue.....	2			3	1	1	1		2				3			11	1	3
Providence Hospital.....																		
Sibley Hospital.....	1						1									2		
St. Elizabeth.....				1										1		1	1	
Washington Asylum																		
Hospital.....	3			1					1				1			13	4	
Total.....	8			9	2	1	8	1	2	1			5	1	2	47	10	3

	Number of students.		Percent- age.	1900.															
				July.			Septem- ber.		October.			Novem- ber.			Decem- ber.				
	Med- ical.	Dent- al.		Good.	Posted.	Infants.	Good.	Posted.	Infants.	Good.	Posted.	Infants.	Good.	Posted.	Infants.	Good.	Posted.	Infants.	
To—																			
Army Medical College...	(1)		(1)																
Columbian University...	307		44.30				1			2			1	1		2	1		
Georgetown University...	119		17.17	1						1			1			1			
Howard University...	136	38	25.11							1			1	1		2	1		
National University...	40	33	10.53										1						
Washington Dental Col- lege		20	2.89										1						
Total.....	602	91	100.00	1			1			4			4	3		5	2		

	1901.															Total.		
	January.			February.			March.			April.			May.			June.		
	Good.	Posted.	Infants.	Good.	Posted.	Infants.	Good.	Posted.	Infants.	Good.	Posted.	Infants.	Good.	Posted.	Infants.	Good.	Posted.	Infants.
To—																		
Army Medical College.....				1									1			2		
Columbian University.....	4			3	1	1	3			1			3			21	4	1
Georgetown University.....	1			2			2		1				1	1		9	2	1
Howard University.....	2			2			2		1							10	2	1
National University.....	1			1	1		1									4	1	
Washington Dental Col- lege.....								1								1	1	
Total.....	8			9	2	1	8	1	2	1			5	1	2	47	10	3

¹ Number of candidates examined by Army Medical Board for Army Medical School, 127.

MEDICAL RELIEF OF THE POOR.

The amount and cost of the work done by the physicians to the poor during the past year is indicated in the following table. The nature of the diseases treated is shown in the statement published on page 59. The supervision of work having been transferred to the board of charities, such transfer to take effect on July 1, 1901, this will be the last report of the health department relative to this service. It is

proper, therefore, here to acknowledge the faithfulness and ability of the various physicians now and heretofore connected with this service.

The excellent work which is being done by the Instructive Visiting Nurse Society deserves commendation. This service having been established, it is difficult now to see how physicians to the poor were ever able to get along without such assistance as it affords.

Work done by physicians to the poor during year ended June 30, 1901.

	Visits made.	Office consultations.	Physicians' salaries.	Cost of medicines furnished.
1900.				
July.....	1,159	32	\$660	\$70.75
August.....	1,265	22	682	71.70
September.....	965	34	660	66.50
October.....	1,204	39	682	64.65
November.....	1,023	27	660	64.80
December.....	990	23	681	81.70
1901.				
January.....	1,942	30	682	133.50
February.....	1,419	23	614	106.15
March.....	1,175	45	682	88.40
April.....	899	26	660	61.00
May.....	916	30	682	69.35
June.....	1,139	27	654	70.05
Total.....	14,096	358	7,999	948.35
Antitoxin.....				136.50
Tablets and dressings.....				71.87
Homeopathic drugs.....				288.00
Supplies for nurses.....				54.80
Total.....				551.17

Families receiving medical relief at public expense:

White..... \$30
Colored..... 3,415

Total 4,245

Individuals receiving medical relief at public expense:

White..... 1,631
Colored..... 4,327

Total 5,958

CONTAGIOUS DISEASES

SCARLET FEVER.

The preceding report of this department showed a decreased prevalence of scarlet fever, the number of cases recorded during the year being 893. This decrease has continued, the past twelve months showing but 488 cases. The severity of the disease has diminished, too, the percentage of fatal cases having decreased from 2.57 to 1.43.

Comparative data showing the relative prevalence and severity of scarlet fever in the District during the past eight years appears in the following table:

Reported cases of scarlet fever for eight years ended June 30, 1901.

Years.	Ratio per thousand of population.			Percentage of fatal cases.		
	White.	Colored.	Total.	White.	Colored.	Total.
1893-94.....	1.22	0.17	0.88	6.25	.....	5.85
1894-95.....	2.03	.51	1.55	3.66	4.44	3.74
1895-96.....	1.49	.28	1.11	3.56	12	4.24
1896-97.....	.78	.14	.57	.67	.....	.62
1897-98.....	2.13	.38	1.57	2.72	5.88	2.97
1898-99.....	4.48	1.17	3.46	2.13	1.92	2.11
1899-1900.....	4.38	.65	3.21	2.15	8.77	2.57
1900-1901.....	2.37	.36	1.75	1.53	.....	1.43

Fifty-three of the reported cases of scarlet fever, or 10.86 per cent of the entire number, were treated in the isolation wards recently provided by Congress for that purpose.

DIPHTHERIA.

There has been a marked decrease in the prevalence of diphtheria, the total number of cases having declined from 1,109 to 675. The death rate decreased from 17.76 per cent to 11.85 per cent. The following table shows the relative prevalence of this disease during the past eight years:

Reported cases of diphtheria for eight years ended June 30, 1901.

Years.	Ratio per thousand of population.			Percentage of fatal cases.		
	White.	Colored.	Total.	White.	Colored.	Total.
1893-94	1.40	2	1.60	43.41	34.48	39.81
1894-95	1.58	1.33	1.50	30.84	28.20	30.09
1895-96	1.52	.45	1.19	23.07	25	23.31
1896-97	2.61	1.42	2.23	15.79	25.39	17.74
1897-98	2.61	2.33	2.52	13.56	31.06	18.71
1898-99	3.80	3.41	3.63	14.30	21.71	16.43
1899-1900	4.70	2.41	3.91	16.00	25.10	17.76
1900-1901	2.88	1.39	2.42	9.93	20.66	11.85

One hundred and fifty-three cases of diphtheria, or 22.66 per cent of the entire number, were treated in the isolation wards for minor contagious diseases.

In connection with the diphtheria service, 3,546 cultures of throats suspected of containing diphtheria bacilli were examined, 1,250 for the purpose of diagnosis and the remainder for the purpose of determining whether the patient might safely be relieved from quarantine. Of the former, 568, or 45.44 per cent, contained diphtheria bacilli. There was an increase in the total number of cultures examined of 389, and an increase in the number of primary cultures of 41.

DISINFECTION SERVICE.

The disinfection service has been continued during the past year, as heretofore. The total number of articles which were disinfected at the disinfecting station was 5,918. There has been an increasing demand for the disinfection of rooms which have been occupied by consumptives, which the health department has been glad to encourage.

HOSPITAL WARDS FOR MINOR CONTAGIOUS DISEASES.

During the past year there have been treated in the isolation wards connected with Garfield Memorial Hospital 144 cases of diphtheria, 11 of scarlet fever, 15 of measles, and 21 of erysipelas. The total number of patient-days, during which cases treated at public expense were in the hospital, was 3,356. As the total amount appropriated by Congress for maintenance was \$5,000, the cost per patient-day was \$1.49. Providence Hospital cared for, in its isolation ward, 42 cases of scarlet fever, 9 of diphtheria, 15 of erysipelas, 1 of measles, and 1 of chicken-pox. Patients were treated at public expense 1,117 patient-days. The total appropriation for this maintenance during the year having been \$3,000, the cost per patient-day was \$2.69.

The usual report of the medical sanitary inspector, charged with the enforcement of the act to prevent the spread of scarlet fever and diphtheria, appears in the appendix.

SMALLPOX.

At the beginning of the fiscal year covered by this report there were 18 patients in the smallpox hospital. During the year 67 cases were admitted. Eighty-four patients have been discharged and 1 is under treatment at the close of the year. The origin of the cases was various, and while smallpox has been present in the District most of the year, its continuance has been due to repeated importations rather than to continual spread. The disease has been of a more severe type than has recently prevailed, but no deaths have occurred. A statement of the operations of the smallpox service in greater detail appears in the appendix in the report of the physician in charge of the smallpox hospital.

Attention is again invited to the necessity for establishing a suitable quarantine station. The one now under rental is but poorly adapted for the purposes for which it is used.

TYPHOID FEVER.

Legislation which was proposed by this department requiring all cases of typhoid fever to be reported, with the primary object of securing a better control of the milk supply was not enacted by Congress. It is recommended that an effort to secure its passage be made during the coming year.

TUBERCULOSIS.

Additional attention is being paid throughout the civilized world to the restriction of tuberculosis. While physicians are required by law in many cities to report this disease, this department is not yet ready to recommend the enactment of such a measure. The prime object of requiring cases of tuberculosis to be reported appears thus far to be not the placarding of the premises nor the isolation of the patients, but the education of the patient as to the best means of caring for himself so as to prevent the spread of the disease among those coming in contact with him. It is hardly probable that a patient suffering from this disease can be properly educated along these lines without the cooperation of the attending physician. It is believed, therefore, that the best results will come through the efforts of the medical profession, which have been and will be furthered in all possible ways by the health department.

As a measure tending, however, toward the prevention of possible danger and tending, too, toward the abatement of a condition constituting a nuisance independent of contagious diseases, the health department has recommended the extension of the regulation now in force forbidding spitting in public vehicles, so as to make it forbid spitting on paved sidewalks.

MALARIAL FEVER.

The discovery of the fact that malarial fever is transmitted from man to man through mosquitoes leads to its classification as a communicable disease. It has already lead to the suggestion that physicians

be required to report all cases, so as to enable the sanitary authorities to see that by means of screens or otherwise the access of mosquitoes to infected patients is prevented. The matter will merit in the future further consideration.

CONTAGIOUS DISEASES AMONG ANIMALS.

Tuberculosis is, of course, always present among the cattle in this District. The exact extent to which it prevails can not be ascertained in the absence of a systematic application of the tuberculin test.

No case of glanders has been reported during the year.

Contagious cerebro-spinal meningitis, or forage poisoning, appeared in certain parts of the District and proved uniformly and rapidly fatal.

Cases of hog cholera were seen in but a few instances. These appeared among the hogs at the stock yards. The diseased animals were promptly slaughtered, condemned, and converted into fertilizer.

Influenza of horses has been continuously present.

Eleven cases of rabies, verified by subdural inoculations, were reported during the early part of the year. The disease has, however, been absent during the later months.

The health department has again to acknowledge its indebtedness to the Bureau of Animal Industry of the Agricultural Department for the valuable assistance which it has rendered from time to time.

PERMITS TO OBSTRUCT TRAVEL.

The issue of permits to obstruct travel so as to secure quiet to persons seriously ill was discontinued on November 1, 1900, by an order of the Commissioners, issued on the advice of the attorney for the District. The following table shows the extent to which such permits were issued during the past year, prior to the discontinuance of the practice, and shows corresponding data of previous years for purposes of comparison:

Permits issued to rope off streets and alleys to cause temporary suspension of travel in consequence of serious illness, etc., during nine years ending June 30, 1901.

Fiscal year.	July.	August.	September.	October.	November.	December.	January.	February.	March.	April.	May.	June.	Total.	Total permit days.	Average time of each permit.	Total number of physicians certifying.
1892-93.	10	14	8	6	6	4	1	6	3	4	9	11	82	427	5.2	56
1893-94.	11	12	8	11	4	4	5	4	6	4	5	12	86	860	10	62
1894-95.	16	12	9	7	7	2	5	...	8	3	13	9	91	670	7.3	71
1895-96.	9	13	15	3	4	2	3	1	...	7	7	12	77	428	5.5	63
1896-97.	19	15	9	5	2	5	4	1	5	...	6	10	81	624	7.7	66
1897-98.	7	7	8	2	0	5	1	1	1	3	5	4	44	344	7.8	40
1898-99.	17	8	8	6	2	2	3	1	3	4	4	3	61	489	8	48
1899-1900.	12	13	8	11	5	2	2	1	2	0	11	8	75	856	11.4	67
1900-1901.	12	10	8	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	32	328	10.25	29

CHEMICAL LABORATORY.

The total number of analyses made in the chemical laboratory during the year was 1,206, an increase of 419 since last year. This increase

was due altogether to the more frequent analysis of samples of milk. Various articles were examined, as follows: Milk, 776 samples; cream, 59; butter, 19; lard, 29; vinegar, 34; cider, 22; olive oil, 13; phenacetine, 20; formaldehyde, 11; Fowler's solution of arsenic, 10; chloride of lime, 7, and water, 145.

Of the samples of milk collected, 357, taken from the possession of milk dealers in the city, showed an average percentage of fat of 4.7; 199, collected at the Baltimore and Ohio depot, showed an average percentage of 4.2, and 180, collected from the Baltimore and Potomac depot, an average percentage of 4.3. The milk collected from local dealers was, however, more variable than that coming from the depots, 15.1 per cent of the samples collected from local dealers being below standard, while but 5.5 per cent of those collected from the Baltimore and Ohio depot and 4 per cent of those collected from the Baltimore and Potomac depot were below standard. Of the samples of cream shipped into the city, somewhat more than one-half were below the legal standard, while of the samples collected from local dealers only one-fifth failed to show the required percentage of fat. Three samples sold as lard were found to be mixtures of beef suet and cotton-seed oil; 8 of the samples of "vinegar" were merely cheap imitations; 6 samples of cider were adulterated with salicylic acid; 6 samples of so-called olive oil were made from cotton seed, and 1 sample sold as butter was found to be oleomargarine.

Samples of phenacetine were purchased from various drug stores on prescriptions to detect if possible the frequency of substitution. In one instance acetanilid, a cheaper material, was substituted for the material demanded. In the other 16 cases the prescriptions were properly filled. An analysis of a sample of a material sold on a prescription calling for a proprietary article, "glycethymoline," showed that some other substance had been substituted. For technical reasons it was impracticable to maintain prosecutions in either of the preceding cases.

An examination was made to determine the frequency with which "chloride of lime" conformed with legal requirements. As this substance is largely used for disinfecting, and depends for its disinfecting properties on the amount of available chloride which it contains, it is desirable that it should in all cases conform to the requirements of law. In not a single instance, however, did it do so, the amount of available chlorine varying from 5 to 17.3 per cent, whereas the legal standard, that of the United States Pharmacopœia, is 35 per cent. It may be asserted with some force that the material purchased was "chloride of lime," whereas the pharmacopœia standard refers to chlorinated lime. The term "chloride of lime" has, however, no technical meaning, and is ordinarily regarded by the laity and even by the medical profession as being synonymous with chlorinated lime. If it does not mean chlorinated lime, it has no definite meaning, and dealers are at liberty to sell, under that name, any preparation whatsoever.

Of the samples of water analyzed, 84 came from private wells, 33 from dairies and dairy farms, and 12 from public wells. Reports were issued condemning 37 of the samples from private wells, 14 from dairies, and 3 from public wells.

The increase in the number of food inspectors, provided for by recent act of Congress, will enable the chemical laboratory of the health

department to do a much greater amount of work hereafter than it has been able to do in the past. Detailed reports as to the work of the laboratory will be found in the appendix in the report of the chemist.

INSPECTION SERVICE.

Nuisances.—The number and character of nuisances which have been abated at the instance of the health department during the past year appears in the following table:

Consolidated report of nuisances for the year ended June 30, 1901.

Nature of nuisance.	1900.						1901.						Total.
	July.	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May.	June.	
Alleys, filthy	27	28	21	6	15	2	8	4	19	28	38	19	215
Alleys, need repair			1	1					1			2	5
Arcs,	5	7	1	5	3		3	1	6	4	6	3	44
Ashes,	4	4		2	3	4	4	14	26	23	15	4	103
Cellars,	19	36	17	17	23	5	7	5	16	19	18	21	206
Drainage, surface,	88	68	33	58	36	55	13	14	22	15	58	29	489
Garbage,	42	140	98	84	65	20	12		17	24	26	16	544
Gutters,	1						2						5
Hogpens,	2								1			5	8
Houses, filthy,	4	7	6	3	4	3	3	1	6	10	10	4	61
Houses, unfit for habitation,		1	1	1		2		1				1	7
Houses, slaughter,												1	1
Houses, no privy,	5	4	1	2	3		3	2		4	6	2	32
Lots, filthy,	20	7	11	10	8	7	8	2	10	26	29	13	151
Lots, stagnant water,		7	6	1	1		1	1		3	11	10	41
Manure,	20	12	4	9	15	11	7	3	9	15	19	17	141
Markets, public,								1			1		2
Miscellaneous,	145	72	65	40	38	20	51	31	65	53	56	93	729
Pipes, water,	1												1
Ponds,		1											1
Privies, filthy,	14	44	3	19	4	64	39	34	39	54	85	35	434
Privies, unlawful,	7	13	5	11	3	10	18	11	6	28	56	27	195
Privies, full,	133	98	97	151	158	191	215	204	138	225	316	173	2,099
Privies, leaky boxes,	8	17	20	8	12	6	5	2	1	19	23	10	131
Roofs, leaky,		2	4	2	7	8	4		3	7		4	41
Sewers,	67	75	88	82	97	68	97	72	113	77	112	114	1,062
Sewers, connections,	10	19	17	35	48	40	24	18	16	9	55	46	337
Stables,	9	21	6	8	5	7	3	1	1	4	10	13	88
Streets, filthy,			1										1
Traps, sewer,	3	4											9
Yards,	144	181	118	221	284	137	291	211	408	360	385	256	2,996
Yards, cow,												1	1
Vaults, privy,													
Water-closets,	62	84	90	104	128	65	140	140	156	115	131	123	1,333
Wharves,													
Weeds,	48	112	117	58	1	1						82	419
Total,	888	1,064	831	939	961	726	958	773	1,081	1,122	1,466	1,128	11,937

Food inspection.—A tabular statement of the work of the department relative to the inspection and condemnation of unwholesome food may be found in the following table. The food referred to in this table is limited to perishable commodities and does not include milk, condiments, etc., such food stuffs having been referred to in connection with the work of the chemical laboratory.

Unwholesome food condemned during the year ended June 30, 1901.

Articles.	1900.					
	July.	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
Beef	1,773	869	1,713	1,316	2,862	550
Mutton	724	735	645	559	1,177	358
Veal	161	78	80	118	120	70
Pork	897	727	417	739	1,070	894
Bacon	130	76	419	162	181	45
Sausage	71	134	54	163	351	235
Chickens	58	125	38	26	357	123
Turkeys				1	88	59
Ducks	5				61	71
Rabbits				6	1,163	296
Squirrels				1	61	
Apples	7	40	21	2	9	
Peaches	73	197	32	79		
Pears	5	55	10	80	7	
Plums	37	14		3		
Bananas	17	165	7	2		5
Lemons	3					
Grapes	100	490	42	1,740	730	
Berries	450	86				
Cherries	12					
Cantaloupes	2,331	7,365	1,801	1,530	10	
Watermelons	353	5,509	3,552	680		
Pineapples	25	7	7			
Asparagus						
Beets	18	7				
Celery	40	119	90	63	76	45
Lettuce	217	16	93	93	90	221
Cabbage	481	139	593	331	72	29
Cymlings	599	374	660	59	50	13
Eggplant	145	220	578	268	291	22
Cauliflower		16		258	489	230
Corn	259	208	323	9		
Cucumbers	188	10	5	29	72	8
Kale				9	19	5
Spinach					13	
Potatoes	360	2	2	9	67	72
Peas	10					
Beans	4		2	2	6	
Turnips	1					
Tomatoes	102	89	53	57	64	
Miscellaneous fruits and vegetables	175	90	96	133	94	123
Eggs	327	189		205		24
Radishes					300	
Pumpkins		8				
Onions		5			2	
Birds		20	120		531	65
Geese					37	
Cheese						
Total	10,158	18,184	11,453	8,732	10,520	3,563

Articles.	1901.						Total.
	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May.	June.	
Beef	1,243	387	1,287	1,379	1,689	2,265	17,333
Mutton	487	211	723	687	1,041	1,085	8,432
Veal	25	10	108	112	187	177	1,246
Pork	796	267	920	792	751	547	8,817
Bacon	39	20	75	97	127	60	1,431
Sausage	243	118	344	222	77	63	2,075
Chickens	137	39	48	61	32	28	1,072
Turkeys	34	10	14	3	7		216
Ducks	25	9	24	2			197
Rabbits	211	13					1,689
Squirrels	11						73
Apples	3	1	1	1			85
Peaches						1	382
Pears	2						159
Plums							54
Bananas	1,586	370	10	11	6		2,179
Lemons	3	4		20	3		33
Grapes	15						3,117
Berries				155	569	728	1,888
Cherries						657	689
Cantaloupes						300	14,337
Watermelons							10,094
Pineapples						30	60
Asparagus				16	136	30	182

Unwholesome food condemned during the year ended June 30, 1901—Continued.

Articles.	1901.						Total.
	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May.	June.	
Beets.....bushels.....							25
Celery.....do.....	187	45	70	37	17		789
Lettuce.....number.....	232	212	1,947	1,069	1,013	349	5,552
Cabbage.....do.....	154	24	234	560	5,256	737	8,610
Cymplings.....do.....							1,755
Eggplant.....do.....	9	208	13				1,754
Cauliflower.....do.....	11		42	6		1,110	1,162
Corn.....dozen.....							799
Cucumbers.....do.....		24				100	436
Kale.....bushels.....	25	2	31	99	30	3	223
Spinach.....do.....	3		45	3			64
Potatoes.....do.....	105	87	37	35	7	50	833
Peas.....do.....					12	17	39
Beans.....do.....	18					10	42
Turnips.....do.....		1				11	13
Tomatoes.....do.....		2	7	6	6	10	396
Miscellaneous fruits and vegetables.....do.....	65	47	147	162	265	193	1,590
Eggs.....dozen.....	15						760
Radishes.....bunches.....			654		4,300	270	5,524
Pumpkins.....number.....							8
Onions.....bushels.....		16	21	28	14		86
Birds.....number.....	101	12					849
Geese.....do.....	8	6	3		1		55
Cheese.....pounds.....						960	960
Total.....	5,793	2,145	6,805	5,563	15,546	9,791	108,253

Marine products.—The work of the inspector of marine products is shown in the following tables:

Inspection and condemnation of marine products for the year ended June 30, 1901.

Articles.	1900.					
	July.	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
<i>Inspections.</i>						
Oysters.....bushels.....	1,600	2,300	18,200	52,600	58,100	61,500
Clams.....number.....	845,000	853,000	497,000	204,000	171,000	127,000
Crabs.....do.....	315,100	375,000	198,000	61,200	20,200	2,700
Mackerel.....do.....	20,520	5,340	4,650	5,540		
Sheepshead.....do.....		27	155	65	186	404
Sturgeon.....do.....	22	12	28		1	
Turtles.....do.....	4	1			5	
Drumfish.....do.....	97	89	9	8		
Carp.....do.....	186	95	7	1,309	760	361
Black bass.....do.....		1,490	2,408	6,200	10,810	16,170
Porgies.....do.....		47	290	140		
Fish.....bunches.....	50,830	56,570	53,674	52,168	50,990	17,445
Herring.....number.....						
Hickory-jacks.....do.....						
Frogs.....do.....						
Sea bass.....lbs.....	1,025					
Shrimp.....boxes.....			1			
Shad.....number.....						
Halibut.....lbs.....						
<i>Condemnations.</i>						
Oysters.....bushels.....			760	2,170	900	
Clams.....number.....	19,994	21,100	10,400	5,900	4,900	3,100
Crabs.....do.....	69,182	64,559	36,600	13,200	5,700	900
Fish.....bunches.....	1,031	1,270	1,071	1,454	1,166	454
Turtles.....number.....	2		5	12	1	
Sturgeon.....do.....						
Herring.....do.....						
Shad.....do.....						
Carp.....do.....						
Porgies.....do.....				12		
Hickory-jacks.....do.....				60		
Frogs.....do.....						
Sea bass.....pounds.....	1,000					
Black bass.....number.....		60	30	40	205	260
Shrimp.....boxes.....			1			
Halibut.....pounds.....						

Inspection and condemnation of marine products for the year ended June 30, 1901—Cont'd.

Articles.	1901.						Total.
	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May.	June.	
<i>Inspections.</i>							
Oysters.....bushels..	61,900	46,300	33,900	19,700	5,300	1,500	362,900
Clams.....number..	218,000	131,000	252,000	406,000	1,245,000	1,236,000	6,185,000
Crabs.....do.....			5,400	55,500	271,400	395,000	1,699,500
Mackerel.....do.....					590	6,710	43,350
Sheepshead.....do.....	1,010	390			45		2,276
Sturgeon.....do.....					192	95	350
Turtles.....do.....					13	28	51
Drumfish.....do.....						22	225
Carp.....do.....	889	692	703	196	1,929	762	7,889
Black bass.....do.....	26,460	7,140	13,785		130	60	84,653
Porgies.....do.....						1,578	2,055
Fish.....bunches.....	24,733	14,319	46,617	45,215	85,354	64,940	562,855
Herring.....number.....			845,600	4,057,000	2,689,000	3,000	7,594,600
Hickory-jacks.....do.....			580	4,378			4,958
Frogs.....do.....						28	28
Sea bass.....lbs.....							1,025
Shrimp.....boxes.....							1
Shad.....number.....			12,656	112,218	46,565	1,507	172,946
Halibut.....lbs.....			287				287
<i>Condemnations.</i>							
Oysters.....bushels.....	947						4,777
Clams.....number.....	5,700	3,900	5,700	8,200	25,030	24,900	138,824
Crabs.....do.....			1,600	10,100	47,900	83,400	333,041
Fish.....bunches.....	667	418	1,458	1,652	1,808	1,948	14,397
Turtles.....number.....						1	21
Sturgeon.....do.....							
Herring.....do.....			2,100	17,000	383,000		402,100
Shad.....do.....					69		69
Carp.....do.....			20		90	49	171
Porgies.....do.....							60
Hickory-jacks.....do.....				105			105
Frogs.....do.....						28	28
Sea bass.....pounds.....							1,000
Black bass.....number.....	35	40	165				855
Shrimp.....boxes.....							1
Halibut.....pounds.....			287				287

Previous recommendations for the construction of a suitable fish wharf are respectfully renewed.

Live-stock inspection.—The inspection of live stock intended for slaughter is attended with great difficulty because of the large number of slaughterhouses and their location at places remote from one another. The fact that there are no regulations limiting the hours of slaughter or requiring the preservation with the carcasses of such viscera as is necessary for the determination of the physical condition of the animal add to the difficulty. It is hoped that it will be possible during the coming year to secure improvements in existing regulations that will permit more satisfactory work in this line, but nothing less than the establishment of one or more public abattoirs and meat-inspection stations will permit the most economical and efficient administration of the live-stock inspection service.

Inspection of dairy farms and dairy products.—The following statement shows the number of applications for licenses to engage in the milk business received during the year and the disposal thereof:

Permits.	Granted.	Refused.	Not acted upon.	Total.
To maintain dairies.....	72	11		83
To maintain dairy farms.....	10	7		17
To bring milk into the District of Columbia.....	152	9	5	166

Since the passage of the law now in force regulating the sale of milk, 901 permits have been issued to maintain dairies. Of these, 520 have been surrendered or canceled for various reasons and 381 remain in force. The total number of permits issued for the maintenance of dairy farms has been 282; 168 have been surrendered or canceled, leaving 114 in force. The total number of permits which have been issued to bring milk into the District is 911; 727 are now outstanding, the remainder having been surrendered or canceled. The details relating to the inspection of dairies and dairy farms appear in the report of the inspector of live stock and dairy farms in the appendix.

It is satisfactory to note a decrease in the infantile mortality coincident with the existence of the present law regulating the sale of milk. In view of the appropriation which has been made for the better enforcement of this law hereafter, it may reasonably be expected that, if the decrease in the infantile mortality heretofore has been in any way due to the enforcement of the milk law in the past, a further decrease will occur hereafter. The law itself, however, needs amendment in order to secure the best possible results. It is much to be regretted, therefore, that the bill presented to Congress last year for that purpose failed in its passage. Another effort to secure needed legislation will be made during the coming year.

Smoke inspection.—During the past year successful prosecutions for alleged violations of the smoke law were maintained in seven cases, a fine of \$10 having been imposed in each case. In three other cases warrants were issued and the defendants brought into court. Two of such cases were, however, continued by the court indefinitely because of the production of contracts for the installation of smoke-preventing devices, and the third was continued to enable the defendant to procure additional witnesses. In the first two cases devices have been duly installed and the nuisances for a time abated. The last case has never been brought to trial.

REMOVAL OF WEEDS.

But little work has been done under the act to cause the removal of weeds, because of the absence of a sufficient appropriation therefor. Attention is again invited to the difficulty of enforcing this act, and it is again urged that its provisions be modified so as to simplify such enforcement.

POUND SERVICE.

The results accomplished by the pound service, both absolute and relative, are shown in the following tables. The decrease in the number of animals impounded, as compared with the preceding year, is due to the fact that the muzzling order has not been in force during the past twelve months, the number of dogs liable to capture having been thus decreased and the pound force, therefore, diminished. The amount of work done compares favorably with prior years generally. Recommendations for the purchase of a site for the pound and for the construction of a building for that purpose and for use as a general stable for the health department are respectfully renewed.

Animals impounded during the ten years ended June 30, 1901.

Year.	Horses.	Cows.	Calves.	Mules.	Hogs.	Geese.	Sheep.	Goats.	Dogs.	Total.
1891-92.....	62	109	.....	20	2	28	1	20	3,077	3,319
1892-93.....	76	38	.....	5	2	3	.....	33	2,963	3,120
1893-94.....	88	26	.....	12	.....	.....	7	21	3,408	3,562
1894-95.....	80	26	.....	6	1	18	.....	11	3,601	3,743
1895-96.....	64	18	.....	3	.....	17	.....	3	3,226	3,331
1896-97.....	60	13	.....	12	1	7	.....	9	2,962	3,004
1897-98.....	54	7	.....	7	.....	.....	.....	5	2,889	2,962
1898-99.....	40	15	.....	8	.....	2	.....	6	2,274	2,345
1899-1900.....	38	17	.....	7	1	32	.....	19	6,260	6,374
1900-1901.....	58	29	.....	2	.....	15	.....	2	2,902	3,008
Total.....	620	298	.....	82	7	122	8	129	33,562	34,828

Operations of the pound for the year ended June 30, 1901.

Month.	Impounded.							Disposition.					Amounts re- ceived.		
	Horses.	Mules.	Cows.	Hogs.	Goats.	Geese.	Dogs.	Total.	Redeemed.	Killed.	Dogs killed.	Returned.	Sold.	From fees.	From sales.
1900.															
July	1	.....	3	.....	.....	.....	256	260	40	211	211	5	4	\$80.00	\$8.00
August.....	10	.....	10	.....	.....	.....	317	337	30	301	300	.....	6	67.50	19.50
September.....	5	.....	15	.....	.....	.....	461	481	56	412	411	4	9	112.00	21.25
October.....	3	.....	1	.....	1	.....	809	314	52	249	249	2	11	103.00	22.00
November.....	9	.....	.....	.....	.....	15	192	216	62	137	137	1	16	101.50	69.50
December.....	5	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	114	119	27	84	84	2	6	54.00	12.00
1901.															
January.....	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	159	160	18	139	139	.....	3	36.00	6.00
February.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	130	130	28	97	97	.....	5	56.00	10.00
March.....	2	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	192	194	50	137	137	.....	7	100.00	18.00
April.....	8	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	184	193	46	138	138	1	8	92.00	16.00
May.....	8	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	222	231	40	182	182	2	7	80.00	14.25
June.....	6	.....	.....	.....	1	.....	306	373	54	308	307	2	7	108.00	33.00
Total	58	2	29	.....	2	15	2,902	3,008	503	2,395	2,392	19	89	990.00	249.50

PROSECUTIONS.

It has been impracticable to keep an accurate record of the disposal in the police court of the numerous cases which have been referred to the United States district attorney and the attorney for the District for prosecution. No statement relative to such cases will, therefore, be attempted.

LEGISLATION.

The only legislation relating to the sanitary affairs of this District enacted during the past year was an act to permit certain burials of the dead in the lands of the Protestant Episcopal Cathedral Foundation of the District of Columbia, and for other purposes, approved March 1, 1901. A statement showing the status of other legislation relating to the sanitary interests of this District at the close of the Fifty-sixth Congress appears in the appendix.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Filtration of Potomac water.—The health department is glad to be able to record the definite selection of slow-sand filtration as the method

to be used in the purification of the water supply of the District of Columbia and the appropriation, by the act of March 1, 1901, of \$500,000 for continuing work toward the installation of the necessary filter beds.

Medical inspection of schools.—Attention is again invited to the need of a system of medical inspection in connection with the public schools of this District. So much has been written and said relative to this matter that arguments in support of such inspection seem unnecessary.

Municipal bath houses.—Attention is invited, too, to the need of the establishment of municipal bath houses throughout the community. Cleanliness is the cardinal principle of all sanitation, but under existing conditions a large portion of the community has not the facilities for keeping even their bodies clean.

Anacostia flats.—The intimate connection between malarial diseases and swamps has long been recognized so positively that the establishment of the mosquito, a product of stagnant water, as the carrier of such diseases merely reinforced the arguments already advanced for the reclamation of the Anacostia flats as a sanitary measure. Recent experiments have, however, shown that the mosquito is responsible for the spread of yellow fever also. While the community has hitherto been spared the ravages of that disease, there is none the less reason why the breeding places of the mosquito should not be done away with, as far as practicable, before its possible invasion, so that if it ever finds entrance the community will be protected as far as possible. Not only have old arguments for the reclamation of the Anacostia flats received new force, but an additional argument of considerably independent weight has been established. For sanitary reasons, therefore, this improvement should be undertaken at the earliest possible moment.

Inspection of barber shops.—An effort was made during the past year by certain interested barbers to secure legislation requiring the licensing of barbers and providing specifically for the regulation of the sanitary condition of barber shops. For certain reasons the bill did not receive the approval of this department. Legislation of this kind is, however, desirable up to a certain point. There is in this District at the present time an increasing number of barber shops which display such signs as "Aseptic barber shop" and "Antiseptic barber shop," but where the most rudimentary principles of asepsis or of antisepsis are not observed. The display of signs of this character under such circumstances constitutes a fraud on the public, which should be prevented by law.

Respectfully.

WM. C. WOODWARD, M. D.,
Health Officer.

The COMMISSIONERS OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.